CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1.   (currently amended) Method for recording and storing the optically detectable data of an object on a storage medium, comprising the steps of making a plurality of individual recordings of the object with a single camera at various spatial settings with respect to the relative position between the object and the camera without adjusting camera settings <u>between the individual recordings</u>; determining the sharply imaged areas of the individual recordings; and assembling the sharply imaged areas of all the individual recordings to form at least one resulting image.

2.   (previously presented) Method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of storing the individual recordings in a computer; whereby in the sharply imaged areas of the individual recordings are determined by the computer with the aid of digital methods; and the resulting images are assembled with the aid of the computer.

3.   (previously presented) Method as defined in Claim 2, wherein the sharply imaged areas are determined by digital formation of the derivative.

4.   (previously presented) Method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the parameters for recording a sequence of individual recordings are predetermined by a computer; and the sequence of the recording is controlled by the computer.

5.   (previously presented) Method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the recording of the individual recordings is started automatically.

6.   (previously presented) Method as defined in Claim 5, wherein the recording of individual recordings is started by means of a photoelectric barrier.

7.   (previously presented) Method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the individual recordings are made at fixed, predetermined time internals.

8.   (previously presented) Method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the individual recordings are made at fixed, predetermined distances between the camera and the object.

9.   (previously presented) Method as defined in Claim 1, wherein a CCD camera is used as the camera for recording the sequence of individual recordings.

10.   (previously presented) Method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of storing all the individual recordings of the sequence in a computer; and determining the sharply image areas after recording of the individual recordings has been concluded.

11.   (previously presented) Method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the sharply imaged areas of the individual recordings are identified and incorporated into the resulting image immediately after the individual recordings have been made.

12.   (previously presented) Method as defined in Claim 1, wherein a plurality of resulting images are assembled from the individual recordings, different areas of the object or different features of the object being shown in the resulting images.

13.   (previously presented) Method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of dividing an image plane into a plurality of areas; and processing the areas in parallel.

14.   (previously presented) Method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the at least one resulting image is used to identify the features of a finger.
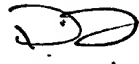
15.   (previously presented) Method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of illuminating the object with a light source.
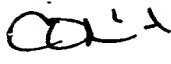
16.   (previously presented) Method as defined in Claim 15, wherein a pulsed light source that is synchronized with the camera is used.

17.   (previously presented) Method as defined in Claim 15, wherein the object is illuminated by a plurality of light sources of different wavelength ranges and in different arrangements.

18.   (previously presented) Method as defined in Claim 15, wherein the object is illuminated as long as it is moving towards the camera and away from the camera.

19.   (previously presented) Method as defined in Claim 15, wherein only areas of the object that are within focus of the camera are illuminated.

20.   (previously presented) Apparatus for carrying out a method according to Claim 1, comprising a computer, a camera, and a control device.